

CHAPTER 1.3.7.

ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION AND TRACEABILITY

Proposed definitions (to be located in Chapter 1.1.1.)

Animal identification means the combination of the identification and *registration* of an animal individually, with a unique identifier; or collectively by its *epidemiological unit* or group, with a unique group identifier. Methods of animal identification include tag, brand, tattoo, transponder (microchip), collar, ring and mark.

Animal identification system means the inclusion and linking of components such as identification of *establishments/owners*, the person(s) responsible for the animal(s), movements and other records with *animal identification*.

Animal traceability means the ability to follow an animal or group of animals during specified all stage(s)-stages of its their life lives.

~~*Individual identification* means the identification of each animal using a unique identifier.~~

~~*Group identification* means the identification of a group of animals using a unique group identifier.~~

~~*Register* means the system by which animal identification and traceability information is securely stored and appropriately accessed by the *Competent Authority*.~~

Registration is the action by which information on animals (such as identification, animal health, movement, certification, epidemiology, *establishments*) is collected, recorded, securely stored and made appropriately accessible and able to be utilised by the *Competent Authority*.

Article 1.3.7.1.

General principles

1. There is a critical relationship between *animal identification* and the traceability of animals and *products of animal origin*.
2. *Animal traceability* and traceability of products of animal origin should have the capability to be linked to food product traceability in order to maintain to achieve traceability throughout the food chain taking into account relevant OIE and Codex Alimentarius standards.
3. *Animal identification* and *animal traceability* are important tools for addressing animal health (including zoonoses), and food safety. These and may significantly improve the effectiveness of the management of disease outbreaks and food safety incidents,

vaccination programmes, herd/flock husbandry, zoning/*compartmentalisation*, surveillance, early response and notification systems, animal movement controls, inspection, certification and assurances of safety, fair practices in trade and the utilisation of veterinary drugs, feed and pesticides at farm level.

4. The objective(s) and outcomes of *animal identification* and *animal traceability* for a particular country, *zone* or *compartment*, and the approach used, should be clearly defined, following an assessment of the risks to be addressed, and a consideration of the factors listed below. They should be defined through consultation between the *Veterinary Administration* and relevant sector(s) sectors/stakeholders prior to implementation, and periodically reviewed.
5. There are various factors which may determine the chosen approach system for animal identification and animal traceability. Factors such as the outcomes of the risk assessment, the animal and public health situation (including zoonoses), animal population parameters (such as species and breeds, numbers and distribution), types of production, animal movement patterns, available technologies, trade in animals and animal products, cost/benefit analysis and other economic considerations, and cultural aspects, should be taken into account when designing the approach system. Whatever approach system is used, it should comply with relevant OIE standards to ensure that the defined objectives are able to be achieved.
6. *Animal identification* and *animal traceability* should be under the responsibility of the *Veterinary Administration*.
7. The *Veterinary Administration* in consultation with relevant governmental agencies and in consultation with the private sector, should establish a legal framework for the implementation and enforcement of *animal identification* and *animal traceability* in the country. In order to facilitate compatibility and consistency, relevant international standards and obligations should be taken into account. This legal framework should include elements such as the objectives, scope, organisational arrangements including the choice of technologies used for identification and registration, obligation of the parties, confidentiality, accessibility issues and the efficient exchange of information.
8. Whatever the specific objectives of the chosen *animal identification system* and *animal traceability*, there is a series of common basic factors that are to all systems, and these must be considered before their implementation, such as the legal framework, procedures, the *Competent Authority*, identification of *establishments/owners*, *animal identification* and *animal movements*.
9. The equivalent outcomes (performance criteria), rather than identical systems (design criteria), should be the basis for comparison of *animal identification systems* and *animal traceability*.